



Washington State Department of Agriculture News Release

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Contact: Steve McGonigal (360) 902-2053
Mike Louisell (360) 902-1813

WASHINGTON STATE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
P.O. Box 42560, Olympia, Washington 98504-2560

State Weed Board proposes 2002 noxious weed list at Spokane hearing

OLYMPIA – Four invasive varieties of English ivy may be added to the state noxious weed list, the State Noxious Weed Control Board announced today. Public comment on the proposals will be heard at 10 a.m. Nov. 14 at the conference room, Spokane County Extension Education Center, 222 N Havana, Spokane.

"Noxious weeds are non-native, invasive plants that are destructive, competitive or difficult to control," said Steve McGonigal, executive director of the State Noxious Weed Control Board. "Their impacts can include reductions in crop yield, destruction of native plant and animal habitat, damage to recreational opportunities, clogging of waterways, reduction of land values or poisoning of humans or livestock."

There are 111 plants on the noxious weed list in Washington. The list is the basis for weed control efforts in the state and is reviewed and revised annually. Meeting in North Bend in September, board members adopted a proposal for changes to the 2002 noxious weed list in cooperation with county weed boards, weed districts, interested parties and agencies such as the state Department of Agriculture.

The State Weed Board categorizes weeds into three classes – A, B and C – depending on the threat they pose. Class A weeds are non-native species with a limited distribution. Preventing new infestations and eradicating existing infestations is high priority and eradication is required by law.

Class B weeds are non-native, invasive species that are limited to portions of the state. Weed control is mandatory in regions where they are not yet widespread. In regions where they are widespread, county noxious weed control boards and weed districts may require control if they feel it is a local priority. Board members propose to delete dwarf snapdragon from the Class B list and to change geographic areas where rush skeletonweed must be controlled.

Class C weeds are non-native weeds found in Washington and are often widespread. Long-term programs of suppression and control are a local option, depending upon local threats and the feasibility of control in local areas. Four invasive varieties of English ivy, yellow flag iris, fragrant water lily and all hawkweeds that are non-native and not currently listed as Class A or Class B noxious weeds would be designated Class C weeds.

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"The lists prioritize control of noxious weed species and they concentrate on prevention and early detection while still allowing for local program flexibility," McGonigal added.

For a copy of the proposed changes, or to submit written comments, contact Shari Kincy, Washington State Noxious Weed Control Board, 1111 Washington St., P.O. Box 42560, Olympia, WA 98504-2560. Written comments, which are due Nov. 13, may be sent by FAX to (360) 902-2094 or by e-mail to skincy@agr.wa.gov.

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